Apple-scented Rain of Happiness
Suzuiro Ringo no Kaori
Chapter 3
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FORBIDDEN
DELIGHT
http://

IT WAS SO HE COULD DRIVE YOU HOME.

...Y
HEY NA.
This feels good...
HARUNA!
JUMP
EH...
HUH?
SORRY TO WAKE YOU UP, BUT I DON'T KNOW WHERE I'M GOING.
WHERE DO I GO AFTER THIS?
HUH? WHERE ARE WE?
When did I fall asleep?
WE'RE AT THE INTER-SECTION PAST THE SUBWAY STATION.
WHERE DO I GO FROM HERE?
AH... YOU CAN DROP ME OFF HERE.
IT'S A ONE-WAY STREET, SO YOU CAN'T GO IN ANY-WAY...
...THANK YOU...
...HAH...
Man, I'm an idiot.
sigh
...WHAT'S WITH YOU? DO YOU STILL FEEL SICK?
NO
THAT'S NOT IT.

WE WERE FINALLY ALONE TOGETHER.
droop
wince
IT'S SUCH A WASTE TO HAVE SLEPT THROUGH IT ALL—
I SHOULD HAVE ENJOYED MYSELF MORE—
YOU'RE SUCH AN OPTIMIST.
Where do you get that unbreakable force of will...?
—BUT SERIOUSLY, COULD YOU JUST GIVE IT UP ALREADY?
I'VE TOLD YOU BEFORE, I HAVE NO INTEREST IN ROMANCE
I THINK YOU'RE A GOOD PERSON
IT'S NOT THAT I DISLIKE YOU. I JUST—
THEN

TELL ME, "I DON'T LIKE YOU".
I'M THE TYPE OF PERSON THAT WON'T GIVE UP UNLESS YOU SAY THAT KIND OF THING
I'M VERY STUBBORN
Hehe.
TELL ME NOT TO COME NEAR YOU AGAIN.
click
THANKS FOR THE RIDE.
SEE YOU.
.....
slam
I'D LIKE TO PUT OFF THE DEPRESSION FOR A LATER DATE.
BUT COULD YOU HOLD OFF FOR NOW?
I HAD A LOT OF FUN TODAY.
tap
tap

wobble
MAN
Well, it's no different from usual.
REJECTED AGAIN
IT'S ESPECIALLY HARSH AFTER SUCH KINDNESS FROM HIM
wobble
stagger
I REALLY AM AN ANNOYANCE
IT'S SAD, BUT GIVING UP IS IMPORTANT TOO
HUH?
AM I STILL DRUNK?
bang
I CAN'T WALK STRAIGHT
stagger
wobble
AH...
AH...
AH...
grab
GOTCHA
Huh?

ARE YOU OKAY?
THERE'S STILL SOME ALCOHOL IN YOUR SYSTEM, ISN'T THERE?
OH
HUH?
YOU'RE STAGGERING
IT'S SCARY JUST WATCHING YOU.
SORRY
I WAS ALRIGHT UP UNTIL NOW
IT'S FINE CAN YOU GO A LITTLE FURTHER?
YEAH
Probably
HERE
DRINK THIS
THANK YOU
I'M A BOTHER TO THE END. I'M SORRY
AH... IT'S TRUE.
I'M GOING TO TELL HARUNA TO RETHINK THE INGREDIENTS OF HER SAKA-MANJUU.
sting
sting
Hm...
...

SO, WHICH IS YOUR HOUSE? THAT BROWN APARTMENT BUILDING?
OH... YES, THAT'S RIGHT.
HMM
IF I BRING IT AROUND, WE COULD TAKE THE CAR.
BUT YOUR BUILDING IS SO CLOSE, IT MIGHT BE FASTER TO JUST DRAG YOU ALONG...
NAKAGAWA-SAN,
YOU'RE A CRUEL MAN.

YOU'RE A HORRIBLE MAN.
BUT YOU'RE KIND
YOU'RE INDIFFERENT TO ME
EVERY TIME I START TO THINK THAT I SHOULD JUST GIVE UP
YOU'RE NICE TO ME AND I LOSE MY RESOLVE
AND THINK THAT I WANT TO LOVE YOU A LITTLE WHILE LONGER
MAKE UP YOUR MIND.
EVEN THOUGH YOU'RE COLD
YOU ARE.
I'M NOT PARTICULARLY KIND

HAHA
HA
IS THERE REALLY NO CHANCE...?
SORRY.
I SEE
sniffle
...CAN I ASK YOU SOMETHING?
MM?
HEY, YOUR NOSE IS RUNNING.
sniffle
sniffle
sniffle
WHATEVER.
I'M TRYING TO GET ALL SENTIMENTAL AND ALL YOU CAN THINK ABOUT IS SNOT.
YOU'RE HORRIBLE NAKAGAWA-SAN
.....
.....
sniffle
sniffle
sniffle
whimper
whimper
whimper
WAS IT A BROKEN HEART THAT CAUSED YOUR DISTRUST OF LOVE?

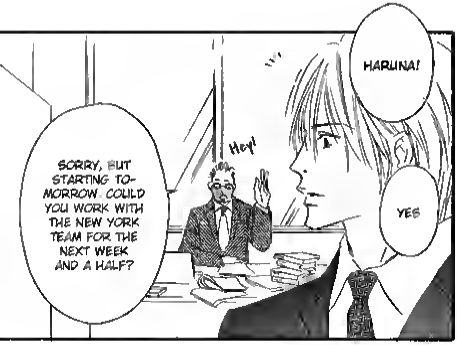
...WAS IT A BROKEN HEART?
...IS A BROKEN HEART THE ONLY OPTION?
IT WAS, WASN'T IT?
...IF YOU DON'T ANSWER ME, I'LL DRIP MY SNOT ON YOU
SNIFF!
HEY, KNOCK IT OFF.
...THE FIRST WOMAN I TRULY LOVED
WAS MARRIED TO SOMEONE ELSE.
...DON'T TELL ANYONE
I WON'T
SO, YOUR TRUEST LOVE WAS ADULTEROUS
THAT'S ROUGH. I DATED A GUY WITH A WIFE AND KIDS ONCE, BUT IT WAS A DISASTER.
...FOR REAL?
REALLY.

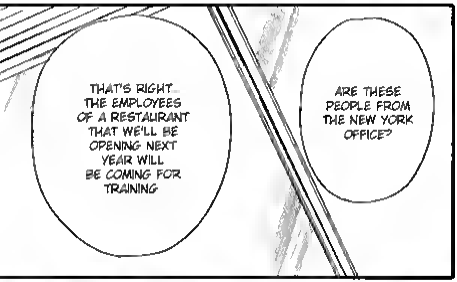
Damn it.
...BONDS CREATED BY A SCRAP OF PAPER... HUH?
YOU MAY BE RIGHT...
Oh, I see...
It turned out he was just playing with me!!
THE BONDS CREATED BY A SCRAP OF PAPER WERE STRONGER THAN I'D THOUGHT.
THE TWO OF THEM WERE EVEN ON THE BRINK OF DIVORCE!
SHOULDN'T HIS WIFE BE THE ANGRY ONE HERE?
The man who rejects me
is always attractive.
BUT CAN I KISS YOU...?
...HEY.
I'M JUST SAYING THIS BECAUSE I HAVE NOTHING ELSE TO LOSE,
WHY DO YOU KEEP TRYING, EVEN THOUGH I ALWAYS SAY NO?
WHAT IS YOUR REASONING?
DOES THAT MEAN NO?
...I made him glare at me again.
.....

...GET LOST.
...YOU REALLY NEED TO THINK BEFORE YOU TALK... SERIOUSLY...
...I WANTED TO MAKE
SNIFFLE
OUR LAST MEMORY INTO A GOOD ONE...
SORRY. IT'S JUST FOR A MINUTE. I WON'T GET MY SNOT ON YOU
HAHA... I'M FINE. I'M USED TO BEING REJECTED
...Y-
YEAH... SORRY
...HEY...
...
I'M ACTING SO PATHETIC
HAHA
WH... WHEN I GET DRUNK MY TEAR GLANDS LOOSEN...
Even though I'm used to it, that doesn't make it hurt any less...

WAS THAT GOOD ENOUGH?
ARE YOU SATISFIED?

YOU DID IT SO SUDDENLY THAT I WAS COMPLETELY UNPREPARED...
WHAT DO YOU MEAN BY THAT?
That's gross!
I DIDN'T TASTE YOU AT ALL.
ONE MORE TIME!
NO WAY!
O... ONE MORE TIME!
WHAT!?
grab
!
PLEASE, JUST ONE MORE TIME.
H...
HEY...
ON TOP OF THAT, YOU'RE PERSIST-ENT...
YEAH...
SORRY... HAHA.
...YOU ARE SHAME-LESS.
... YEAH.
.....


HARUNA!
YES
Hey!
SORRY, BUT STARTING TOMORROW. COULD YOU WORK WITH THE NEW YORK TEAM FOR THE NEXT WEEK AND A HALF?


ARE THESE PEOPLE FROM THE NEW YORK OFFICE?
THAT'S RIGHT. THE EMPLOYEES OF A RESTAURANT THAT WE'LL BE OPENING NEXT YEAR WILL BE COMING FOR TRAINING

WILL I BE TRANSLATING?
SOME JAPANESE STAFF WILL BE GOING WITH YOU, AND THEY WANT TO LOOK AROUND. THEY'LL BE RELYING ON YOUR GUIDANCE.
YES... BUT

YES. THANK YOU.
OH, YOU'RE RIGHT. I'LL GO.
IT'S NEARLY STOCKING TIME, SO THIS IS A DO-OR-DIE SITUATION!
WHAT WILL YOU DO ABOUT WAKATAKE WHILE I'M GONE...?
I SEE. THAT'S GOOD
NO, THAT'S NOT IT AT ALL...!
GETTING YELLED AT BY KURAMOTO EVERY DAY MUST BE PRETTY STRESSFUL.
I CAN'T TELL HIM THAT I GOT DRUNK
YES, BUT I'M FINE NOW...
I GUESS IT WAS A LITTLE BIT OF ANEMIA OR SOMETHING SORRY FOR THE TROUBLE...
NOW THAT YOU MENTION IT, HOW ARE YOU FEELING? DIDN'T YOU COLLAPSE AT THE WAKATAKE YESTERDAY?
YOU'VE BEEN GOING TO THE WAKATAKE BREWERY EVERYDAY SO YOU'RE EXEMPT. LEAVE THE REST TO ME
IT'S THANKS TO YOU THAT KURAMOTO HAS BEEN GRADUALLY SOFTENING UP!
EH...
NO... I CAN GO TODAY...
ALRIGHT! STARTING TODAY, I'LL GO TO THE WAKATAKE!

SPEND SOME TIME RELAXING!
OKAY
MUST BE NICE TO BE EXEMPT FROM WAKATAKE DUTY!
HUH?
YOU WON'T EVER BE EXPOSED TO THE DANGER OF FLYING CRUTCHES AGAIN
YEAH, I GUESS SO
droop
MY EXCUSE TO SEE HIM IS DISAPPEARING...
HUH? WHAT?
NOTHING
...IT'D BE NICE IF WE COULD SEE EACH OTHER WHEN HE COMES TO WORK ON THE COMPUTERS, BUT IT PROBABLY WON'T BE THAT EASY...
pout
I'VE ONLY EVER SEEN HIM HERE ONCE BEFORE...
OH, BUT NOW THAT I THINK OF IT,
?
the next time we see each other,
he's going to reject me...

...He
kissed me, after all.
I really need to give up...
GOOD MORNING
HEY, HARUNA. WHAT'S WITH THAT FACE...? THAT'S NOT A MORNING FACE
Hahaha
waffle
MORNING
waffle

ALL SIX OF THEM WERE INCAPABLE OF MAKING A DECISION AND SPENT THE ENTIRE TIME SAYING, 'I WANT TO GO THERE,' 'I WANT TO TRY THAT,' 'I CAN'T EAT THAT'...
IT REALLY WAS!
Gah
I'M NOT A TOUR GUIDE!!
Yeah, it has.
Oh, it's Haruna-kun. It's been a while
YOU WENT WITH THE NEW YORK TEAM TO NARITA AIRPORT, RIGHT?
DID THEY GET ON ALL RIGHT?
THEY GOT ON. THEY WENT HOME ...!
AFTER THEY SENT ME OUT TO BUY SOUVENIRS FOR THEM!
Hahaha.
MUST HAVE BEEN A LONG TEN DAYS.
WAKA-TAKE.
Probably.
MM... FIRST I NEED TO REPORT... WHERE'S THE CHIEF?
Haruna, I want some coffee?
Please
HAHAHA, SOUNDS HORRIBLE.
YOU'RE TAKING THIS AFTERNOON OFF, RIGHT? YOU SHOULD TAKE IT EASY
WAKA-TAKE.
That's right... I haven't been there for ten days.
It's kind of depressing not to have to go...
Yo, Mu-chan!
I kind of miss Kuramoto's screaming voice...

EXCUSE ME, NAKAGAWA-SAN.
CAN YOU LOOK AT THIS ONE NEXT?
Nakagawa-san... I wonder what his first name is?
pout
Even if it's just his usual expression, I want to see it again.
I really want to see him.
Naka-gawa-san!?
Huh!?
clatter
...Ah.
What is this? Is it fate!?
There he is!

Oh, no. The next time he sees me, he plans to reject me...!!
AH...
I'm... not ready for this.
thump thump thump
AH... NOT YET!!
waaaah
Haruna!?
WOW. WHAT WAS THAT FOR? I WONDER WHAT'S WRONG WITH HARUNA-KUN.
SORRY ABOUT THE NOISE. HE'S ALWAYS SO LIVELY.
...NO PRO-BLEM.
Snicker Snicker
HARUNA-KUN IS ALWAYS LIKE THAT, BUT DESPITE IT, HE'S REALLY CAPABLE. HE'S ONE OF THE SEVEN WONDERS OF OUR COMPANY.
Heh...
HAVE YOU EVER TALKED TO HARUNA-KUN, NAKAGAWA-SAN?
...YEAH.
A LITTLE IN THE BREAK-ROOM...
WHEN YOU SPEND A LOT OF TIME TALKING TO HIM, HE'S SO STRANGE IT'S FUN
He's attractive, so it's kind of a shame.

T/N "TENKOU" IS THE NAME OF A SAKE COMPANY.

BUT HARUNA-KUN IS USUALLY RUNNING AROUND OUTSIDE THE OFFICE SO YOU PROBABLY HAVEN'T SEEN HIM MUCH, HAVE YOU?
TEN KOU
...HEY
HAS HE LEFT YET?
HUH? THE CHIEF? HE HASN'T COME BACK YET.
DOZE UP...
...OH, IT'S JUST YOU TOKU!
sigh
WHAT DO YOU MEAN BY THAT? How rude
Just go home instead of falling asleep there...
....HARUNA? WHAT ARE YOU DOING?
Jump
!?
HUH?
NOT HIM.
NO FORGET IT

It wasn't that I wanted to run away.
Seeing his face made me want to talk to him...
HARUNA, HAVE YOU HAD LUNCH?
OHNISHI-SAN IS TAKING ORDERS FOR LUNCH
NO, I'M FINE
sigh
But if I see him,
It might all be over, right?
?
I know that running doesn't change anything, but...
.....
Man... I really am too persistent.
There's really nothing I can do about it
.....HEY, TOKUI THAT COMPUTER REPAIRMAN THAT WAS AROUND BEFORE,
IS HE STILL.....
Creak
DID YOU NEED SOMETHING?
That's love for you

Eek...!
!!
NN.
H...
HI...
HI
Damn it
He really is
good-looking.
.....
NN
I guess
I can't run
away...
collapse
.....

HARUNA AND JII-CHAN
HAVE BEEN WORRIED BECAUSE THEY HAVEN'T SEEN YOU LATELY
...HUH?
THEY'VE BEEN THINKING THAT OUR SAKAMANJUU WERE SO BAD THEY CAUSED YOU SOME KIND OF TRAUMA.
NN
HMM
YOUR BOSS PUTS JII-CHAN IN A HORRIBLE MOOD
Haruna complains too.
WELL, STOP BY SOMETIME
Y... YEAH.
OH... NO!
I'VE BEEN RUNNING AROUND DEALING WITH A SEPARATE MATTER FOR THE PAST COUPLE OF WEEKS...
I WANTED TO GO SEE YOU, THOUGH...
YOU HAVEN'T TOLD ANYONE.
YOU HAVEN'T TOLD ANY-ONE THAT I'M FROM WAKATAKE
?
NO
HUH?

WHY?
I THOUGHT THAT YOU WERE GETTING CLOSE TO ME
IN ORDER TO USE MY CONNECTION TO WAKATAKE TO MAKE AN AGREEMENT
HUH? USE ...?
THIS COMPANY IS MY OFFICE'S BIG CLIENT, DID YOU KNOW?
IF YOU TOLD ME TO PUT PRESSURE ON JII-CHAN, I WOULD HAVE NO CHOICE BUT TO DO WHAT YOU WANT
THAT'S...
I WOULD NEVER USE YOU LIKE THAT
THE THOUGHT NEVER EVEN CROSSED MY MIND!
I SIMPLY FELT DRAWN TO YOU. I FELL IN LOVE WITH YOU AT FIRST SIGHT.
I WOULDN'T DO SOMETHING THAT DISHONEST
.....

THE OTHER DAY,
AH...
flinch
OH, I ALMOST FORGOT
Heh...
SEVEN WONDERS HUH?
IT'S NO-THING.
HUH?
YOU TOLD ME TO GIVE YOU AN ULTIMATUM.
squeeze
Oh, man, is it finally here...!?
MPH...
AH, THERE YOU ARE! NAKAGA-WA-SAN
I'M SORRY. BEFORE YOU GO, THERE'S ONE MORE THING I NEED YOU TO LOOK AT
—YES I'LL BE RIGHT THERE
SORRY, YOU CAN FINISH YOUR BREAK FIRST.
JUMP
!!

HERE
I BARELY TOUCHED IT
UH... YEAH
IT'S FINE
SEE YOU
Hah...
tremble tremble
AN INDIRECT KISS. ♡
But you did drink a little ♡
Or something like that~ ♡
Gross...
.....
... HEY.
AH
HAHA HA...
Whatever...
Hah...
.....

He didn't say it,
even though it would have been so easy.
It's enough to make me get cocky.
Am I just being too positive, like always?
HEHE
...I guess that's fine.
GOOD EVE-NING
LET KO-CHAN FEED YOUR STARVING TUMMY
rattle
Kochan's Kitchen
OH, IT'S MUTSUKI-CHAN WELCOME
WE HAVE A RARE VISITOR TODAY
YO
AH.

YOU-SUKE!
WHY ARE YOU HERE? WHEN DID YOU GET BACK FROM PARIS?
SCRAPE
LAST WEEK.
MY OLDER SISTER WAS GETTING MARRIED. I'M GOING BACK THE DAY AFTER TOMORROW.
How many years has it been?
About a year.
IF YOU WERE BACK, YOU SHOULD'VE CALLED ME.
WE COULD AT LEAST EAT TOGETHER.
...THAT'S TRUE, BUT I...
I'd like Oolong tea and today's special
WHY?
IT WAS AN AMICABLE DIVORCE AFTER ALL.
DON'T CALL IT A DIVORCE
WASN'T SURE YOU'D WANT TO HEAR FROM THE GUY YOU BROKE UP WITH...
Bonjour!
Merci beaucoup! C'est très bon!
Does my French make me cooler?
BY THE WAY, HOW'S IT GOING? YOUR TRAINING AS A PASTRY CHEF, THAT IS
GREAT! I CAN FINALLY UNDERSTAND THE LANGUAGE, SO IT'S PERFECT!
Wait!
I'M IN LOVE!
WITH A REALLY GREAT GUY!
I'd like
WHAT!?
YOU-SUKE, LISTEN!
LISTEN, LISTEN!
HOW'S WORK...
HOW ABOUT YOU, MUTSUKI?

Come on. There're no other guests, so let me in on the conversation.
IT'S MUTSUKI-CHAN, SO HE'S PROBABLY IN LOVE WITH ANOTHER STRAIGHT GUY, RIGHT?
HOW DID YOU KNOW?
YOU'RE ALWAYS CRYING OVER SITUATIONS LIKE THAT.
You haven't changed at all, Haruno...
...YOU'RE THE SAME AS EVER.
BUT THERE'S NO ONE ELSE TO TALK TO. CAN YOU NOT BE SO UP-TIGHT AND JUST LISTEN?
IS THIS REALLY SOMETHING YOU WANT TO TALK TO YOUR EX ABOUT?
...YEAH, YEAH.
Listen, listen!
BUT THE CLOSER I GET, THE MORE HE TALKS TO ME.
HE EVEN SMILES SOMETIMES! THE OTHER DAY, HE EVEN...
MM... BUT THIS TIME THINGS ARE GOING PRETTY WELL.
THIS GUY IS SO COOL, OR SHOULD I SAY ANTI-SOCIAL? HE WAS SO COLD WHEN I MET HIM!
rattle
GOOD EVE-NING
I'M SORRY FOR BEING LATE
RIGHT, RIGHT!?
I THINK THAT IT MIGHT BE A MIRACLE...
grab
THEN THINGS ARE GOING IN A GOOD DIRECTION?
WHAT ... SERI-OUSLY?
KISSED ME!!
Even though I'd kind of force him.

Let go already.
Huh?
I'VE BROUGHT YOUR WEEKLY DELIVERY OF SAKE
IS THIS ENOUGH?
TENKOU
HAKATAKI BREWERY LTD.
OH THANK YOU
IT'S NOT HARUNA-CHAN TODAY, HUH
You're very handsome.